

South Carolina Deaths in Law Enforcement Custody, 2010-2011

Final Report

Submitted to the SC Department of Public Safety

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes findings regarding the on-going effort of the individual coroners of each of the forty-six (46) counties in the State of South Carolina together with the assistance of the South Carolina Coroners Association ("SCCA") to collect information about deaths in "police custody" -- defined broadly as persons who died while being restrained without the intent to arrest, were in the process of being arrested, or were in the custody of law enforcement officers. Data were collected on deaths that occurred during the period April 1, 2010 through June March 31, 2011.

County coroners in South Carolina were contacted to determine whether or not any persons died while in police custody in their jurisdiction. When a coroner indicated an eligible death occurred, details regarding that death were requested. In addition to contacting coroners, media searches were conducted by the SCCA to identify deaths that might have gone unreported and to assist coroners in locating case files by providing names and dates of death.

Based on the media searches and information supplied by each individual coroner's office, 16 deaths in custody were identified that occurred during the twelve (12) month reporting period.

Basic descriptive statistics and a summary of the data appear on pages 3-4. Short narratives about each incident begin on page 4, and the media accounts of deaths begin on page 6. The next section provides additional details regarding the data collection process.

METHOD

Information on deaths in police custody was obtained by the county coroners' offices in South Carolina, there being forty-six (46) offices. Reports on deaths that occurred during the second quarter of 2010 through the first quarter of 2011 (April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011). Data were collected semiannually for this reporting period. Specifically, county coroners were contacted at the beginning of the contract period (April, 2010) and bi-monthly thereafter to collect information on deaths that occurred April 1-September 30 and again in January, March and June to collect information on deaths that occurred October 1-March 31, 2011. Coroners or their assistants were contacted in person, phone, fax, and/or email and asked to provide any information on the appropriate reporting form about any subject in their specific county who died while in police custody during the specific reporting period. If a death appeared to meet the criteria established by the Bureau of Justice Statistics for a death in police custody, the respondent was asked to provide specific details regarding that death. The SCCA also obtained information from a coroner about a death that occurred during the previous 12 month reporting period, but for which information was not yet available. This information is provided in the Appendix (Table 2).

It is important to point out that our practice is to err on the side of inclusion regarding cases that are vague in terms of meeting BJS eligibility criteria for a "death in custody." For example, according to the

criteria, deaths that occur in lock-up facilities¹ pre-arraignment are eligible, but deaths that occur post-arraignment are not since information on post-arraignment deaths are obtained under a separate BJS data collection effort. We include some deaths that occur beyond 72 hours post-arrest because of possible arraignment delays. In other cases, deaths may have occurred within seventy-two (72) hours of being arrested; but, it is unclear whether not the subjects had been arraigned prior to their death. Although this may produce some duplication, BJS can cross-check these cases with those obtained under their other data collection efforts.

In addition to contacting coroners' offices, internet searches were conducted to obtain media accounts of deaths. This information was used to assist coroners in identifying eligible cases in their records by providing names and dates and to identify deaths that may have gone unreported. If unreported cases were identified, coroners were queried about them and specific details requested. For some, known death information was not yet available from coroners due to ongoing investigations by SLED or other government agencies. For these cases, the information provided is based on media accounts only, when available. We will attempt to update and verify any pertinent information and/or reports as they become available through future data collection efforts.²

FINDINGS

Based on information obtained the coroners and media searches, 27 deaths were identified. The date of death, the proximate cause of death, and basic demographic information is provided in Table 1. Information about 6 deaths is based on media accounts and should be considered preliminary. These cases are identified with one asterisk (*).

Table 1: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011						
Case	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	Age	D/O/D	County	Proximate Cause
1	M	Black	30	3-31-10	Florence	Suicide
2	M	Black	43	4-27-10	Charleston	Illness
*3	M	unknown	30	5-9-10	Florence	Homicide by law enforcement officer
4	M	White	55	5-13-10	Anderson	Suicide
5	M	Black	29	5-17-10	Dorchester	Homicide by law enforcement officer
*6	M	unknown	20	5-28-10	Florence	Homicide by law enforcement officer
7	M	Black	34	6-5-10	Kershaw	Natural

¹ Lock-up facilities include temporary holding cells in police stations and booking facilities in which police register and enter charges against a suspect.

8	M	White	42	6-15-10	Anderson	Homicide by law enforcement officer
9	M	White	37	6-27-10	Chester	Natural
10	M	White	71	7-13-10	Horry	Natural
11	M	Black	60	7-28-10	Charleston	Suicide
12	M	Black	Baby	7-29-10	Beaufort	Stillborn Death
13	M	Black	82	8-9-10	Clarendon	Illness
14	M	White	54	8-12-10	Greenwood	Homicide by law enforcement officer
15	M	White	52	8-28-10	Spartanburg	Illness
16	M	Black	56	9-17-10	Florence	Natural
*17	M	Black	24	9-28-10	Sumter	Homicide by law enforcement officer
*18	M	Black	22	10-24-10	Dorchester	Homicide by law enforcement officer
19	F	Black	20	11-10-10	Greenwood	Natural
20	M	White	45	11-19-10	Greenwood	Suicide
*21	M	Black	28	11-23-10	Georgetown	Homicide by law enforcement officer
22	F	Black	53	11-25-10	Greenwood	Natural
23	M	White	47	11-26-10	Greenwood	Suicide
24	M	White	54	12-2-10	Anderson	Homicide by law enforcement officer
*25	M	unknown	28	1-9-11	Dorchester	Homicide by law enforcement officer
26	M	White	49	3-13-11	Greenville	Suicide
27	M	White	41	3-22-11	Greenville	Suicide

Notes: * = information on media accounts

As Table 1 shows, there were 2 deaths (7%) involving female subjects. 25 of the deaths (93%) involved male subjects. Age ranged from birth to 82, with a mean of 41 years. 13 subjects (48%) were black, 11

(41%) were white; 3 (11%) being unknown at the time of reporting. 7 deaths (or 26%) were suicide, 10 cases (37%) were due to application of force by law enforcement officers (100% of these involved firearms); 9 deaths (33%) were due to illness or natural causes; 1 was due to a stillborn death.

Narratives

This section provides brief narratives regarding the deaths. Asterisks indicate the information is based solely on media accounts. Media accounts themselves appear in the next section.

1. A 30 year old black male died on 3-31-10 at the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The date he entered the facility is unknown. The medical cause of death was *asphyxia due to hanging* (with a sheet) and the manner of death was *suicide*.
2. A 43 year old black male (incarcerated resident at the Charleston County Detention Center) died on 4-27-10 at the Medical University of South Carolina. The date he entered the facility is unknown. The medical cause of death was *sepsis / tuberculosis* and the manner of death was *natural*.
3. See Media Accounts.
4. A 55 year old white male died on 5-13-10 at the Anderson County Detention Center. The date he entered the facility is unknown. The medical cause of death was *asphyxia* (with a plastic bag) and the manner of death was *suicide*.
5. A 29 year old black male died on 5-17-10 at the scene from a gunshot wound to the trunk by law enforcement officers of the Summerville Police Department. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound to the trunk* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement officer*.
6. See Media Accounts.
7. A 34 year old black male died on 6-5-10 at the Kershaw Correctional Institute. The date he entered the facility is unknown. The medical cause of death was *cardiomegaly* and the manner of death was *Illness / Natural Causes*.
8. A 42 year old black male died on 6-15-10 at the scene from a gunshot wound to the groin area by law enforcement officers of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. The medical cause of death was *gunshot wound in the groin area* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement officer*.
9. A 37 year old white male died on 6-27-10 from natural causes. The date of entry into the Chester County Prison Camp was March 20, 2010. Decedent was walking around the prison camp and collapsed. The medical cause of death was *acute myocardial infarction* and the manner of death was *Illness / Natural Causes*.
10. A 71 year old white male died on 7-13-10 from natural causes. Decedent died at booking center / police lockup. The medical cause of death was *arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease* and the manner of death was *natural causes*.
11. A 60 year old black male died on 7-28-10 at the Charleston County Detention Center. The date of entry into the Charleston County Detention Center was 9-19-09 and was scheduled to be released on 8-4-10. The medical cause of death was *asphyxia due to hanging* and the manner of death was *Suicide*.

12. A black baby boy died on 7-29-10 at the Beaufort County Detention Center. The decedent was the unborn child of an inmate delivered at 20 weeks gestation. The mother was booked on 7-13-10. The stillborn fetus was delivered in the cell. The medical cause of death was the fetal death at 20 weeks gestation and the manner of death was *stillborn*.
13. An 82 year old black male died on 8-9-10 at the Turbeville Correctional Institute. The date of entry into the Institute is unknown. Decedent died at facility. The medical cause of death was *acute bronchopneumonia* with complications of Parkinson and Alzheimer's Disease (clinical) years and the manner of death was the same.
14. A 54 year old white male died on 8-12-10 at the scene when he was tazered by law enforcement officers from the Greenwood County Sheriff's office. The medical cause of death was *dilated cardiomyopathy* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement officer(s)*.
15. A 52 year old white male died on 8-28-10 at the Spartanburg County Detention Center. Decedent was incarcerated for bank robbery. Decedent died at facility. The medical cause of death was *meningitis* and the manner of death was *meningitis*.
16. A 56 year old black male died on 9-17-10 at the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The date of entry into the facility is unknown. The medical cause of death was *congestive heart failure* and the manner of death was *natural death*.
17. *A 24 year old black male died on 9-28-10 at the scene when law enforcement officers responded to a carjacking call in Sumter County. They pursued a suspect for several miles until the car crashed into a home in a neighborhood. The suspect fled the scene. After setting up a perimeter around the area, decedent was spotted walking in the area, he presented a firearm and in response Sumter police officers fired several shots striking Jacobs, killing him.
18. A 22 year old black male died on 10-24-10 in Dorchester County at the scene when the decedent attempted to escape from custody. The Summerville Police Department fired at the decedent killing him. The medical cause of death was *exsanguination* and the manner of death was *homicide by law enforcement*.
19. A 20 year old black female died of natural causes on 11-19-2010 in Greenwood County. The medical cause of death was *natural* causes and the manner of death was *tonsillar herniation*.
20. A 45 year old white male committed suicide on 11-19-10 in Greenwood County. The medical cause of death was *asphyxia* due to hanging and the manner of death was *Suicide*.
21. See Media Accounts.
22. A 56 year old black female died of natural causes on 11-25-10 in Greenwood County. The medical cause of death was *natural* causes and the manner of death was *Respiratory failure/brain hemorrhage*.
23. A 47 year old white male committed Suicide on 11-26-10 in Greenwood County. The medical cause of death was *Suicide* and the manner of death was *Asphyxia* due to suspension hanging.
24. A 53 year old White male died on 12-2-10 in Anderson County. *The medical cause of death was Homicide by law enforcement and the manner of death was Homicide by law enforcement officer(s)*.
25. See Media Accounts.
26. A 49 year old White Male died on 3-13-11 in Greenville County. The medical cause of death was *self inflicted gunshot wound to the head* and the manner of death was *Suicide*.

27. A 41 year old White Male died on 3-22-11 in Greenville County. The medical cause of death was *Gunshot wound to the head* and the manner of death was *Suicide*.
28. **A 28 year old male died in 1-2010 in Dorchester County at the scene when decedent failed to stop for officers, failed to surrender and fired a .40 caliber handgun at police. Decedent yelled for officers to "shoot him". A sheriff's deputy fired at decedent. Decedent had been drinking alcohol and was involved in a domestic dispute earlier that day. However the sheriff's deputy has been cleared of any charged in the death.
29. **A 51 year old black male died at the scene on 3-7-2010 at the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. The date of entry into facility was 2-23-10. The medical cause of death was *congestive heart failure* and the manner of death was *natural death*.
30. **A 54 year old black male died in the first quarter of 2009 at Tuomey Medical Center in Sumter County. The date of entry into the Turbeville Correctional Facility was in 2008. No records were available at the time of reporting which indicate the manner or cause of death.
31. **A 33 year old black male died on 8-9-2009 at his home. He died at his home. The medical cause of death was *homicide by law enforcement officer / natural death* and the manner of death was *cardiac arrhythmia due to cardiomegaly due to victim having been in a physical altercation*. The Greenville City Police Department was involved.
32. **A 63 year old black male died on 9-18-09 at the Turbeville Correctional Facility. The date of entry into the facility is unknown. Records were not available at the time of reporting as to the charges filed against decedent. The medical cause of death was *respiratory failure / lung carcinoma* and the cause of death was the same.

**See Appendix.

Media Accounts:

Case # 3

By Carlton Purvis

Published: July 27, 2010

Florence deputy ID'd, cleared in two fatal shootings.

The Florence County Sheriff's Office has confirmed the deputy who shot and killed a suspect in Lake City on May 9 is the same deputy who shot and killed a man in the Seekers nightclub parking lot less than three weeks later, and that he has been cleared in both shootings.

Deputy Dane Keefe was still under investigation by the State Law Enforcement Division for the shooting of Adrian Pressley in Lake City the night he shot Deangelo Eugene James Foxworth on May 28 outside of Seekers.

On the night of May 9, deputies responding to a shooting on Lassie Street in Lake City located the shooting suspect, 30-year-old Adrian Devon Pressley of Nesmith, on Airport Circle and were fired on by him, Florence County Sheriff's Capt. Mike Nunn said in a previous report.

Deputies returned fire, and Pressley was pronounced dead at the Airport Circle scene, Nunn said. Sheriff's investigators said Pressley had just shot two people on Lassie Street and left them for dead when he was killed.

Pressley's family members interviewed at the scene identified the victims in the first shooting as Pressley's ex-girlfriend and a man who was in her home at the time. They said Pressley and the woman had recently ended their relationship.

The victims of the Lassie Street shootings received treatment at an area hospital, and one of the victims in the shooting positively identified Pressley as the suspect, investigators said.

The man Pressley shot — identified as 32-year-old Quincy Lamont Brown of 505 Lassie St. in a Lake City Police Department incident report released Tuesday as a result of a Freedom of Information Act request — died days later, Boone said in his statement.

Keefe was placed on administrative leave after the Lake City shooting and required to undergo psychological counseling per sheriff's office policy, according to Tuesday's statement from Sheriff Kenney Boone.

After the first shooting, Keefe immediately asked to speak to his lawyer, according to SLED documents.

"When this deputy was cleared by the psychologist as fit to return to duty, and at his request, the deputy was put back to work" before the second shooting, according to Boone's statement.

Deputies responded to Seekers on South Irby Street at 3:09 a.m. May 28 to reports of a disturbance with "multiple shots fired." The fight escalated into a shootout in the parking lot and ended with 20-year-old Foxworth, of Marion, dead.

A security guard also was shot in the parking lot by a patron and is recovering from his injuries.

SLED's investigation of the Lake City shooting ended June 7 and concluded that Pressley's death constituted a lawful use of force. The S.C. Attorney General reviewed the case and cleared Keefe on June 15.

Boone said in his statement issued Tuesday that Keefe has been cleared in Foxworth's death. SLED has not confirmed that, however.

The sheriff's office didn't identify the deputy involved in either shooting until Boone's statement Tuesday, when he confirmed the same deputy was involved in both.

"Officer involved shootings are tragic for everyone involved, family members, bystanders, the public and the officer included. ... The taking of human life leaves an indelible mark on the officer, even in the best of circumstances and in the most justified situations," Boone said in his statement.

"Law enforcement officers are trained to protect human life, which includes the public and themselves. Our deputy valiantly responded to both of these imminent threats to himself and the public in a manner consistent with his training and South Carolina law," he said in the statement. "While we regret the loss of life in these instances, we are certainly pleased for our deputy that two independent investigations have found no wrongdoing on his part and that his actions were legally justified under the circumstances."

Source:

http://www2.scnw.com/news/2010/jul/27/11/florence_deputy_idd_cleared_in_two_fatal_shootin-ar-630893/. See also Items 3 and 6 in Table 1.

Case #6

By Patricia Burkett

Published: May 28, 2010

Florence deputy shoots, kills suspect in nightclub shootout.

An early Friday morning fight that escalated into a shootout in a Florence night club parking lot ended with a Marion man killed by a Florence County sheriff's deputy and a club security guard wounded. Florence County Coroner M.G. "Bubba" Matthews identified the dead man as 20-year-old Deangelo Foxworth.

Deputies responded to Seekers on South Irby Street at 3:09 a.m. to reports of a disturbance with "multiple shots fired," according to a sheriff's office press release.

"A fight which began inside the club spilled out into the parking lot where multiple shots were fired from multiple handguns in several areas of the surrounding parking lot," Capt. Mike Nunn said in the release.

"After repeated commands from the deputy for the shooter to drop his weapon were ignored, the subject was shot by the deputy. This subject was transported by EMS to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead by (Florence County) Deputy Florence Coroner Don Reynolds.

"The bouncer was shot, the deputy confronted this individual who was armed and commanded him to drop his weapon, he did not and the officer did not have any other alternative," said Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone.

The security guard was "shot in the parking lot by a patron and is being treated at an area hospital," Nunn said in the release.

The owners of Seekers have agreed the club will not reopen until Wednesday, according to the release. Sheriff Kenney Boone, at a press conference Wednesday, said he would like to see the club closed permanently as a public nuisance, in much the way a club in the Savannah Grove community was closed earlier this year.

In that case, a judge ruled earlier in May that KT's Lounge, or KT's Place on Ed James Road in Effingham, be leveled within 30 days. A mobile home, the residence of the club's owners, was ordered moved or it too would be subject to destruction, according to a ruling issued by Circuit Court Judge Thomas A. Russo.

This is the second instance in the last month when a Florence County sheriff's deputy has shot and killed a suspect.

It's not clear if the same deputy was involved in both incidents.

On the night of May 9, deputies responding to a shooting on Lassie Street in Lake City located the shooting suspect, 30-year-old Adrian Devon Pressley of 50 Keeler Road, Nesmith, and were fired on by him, Nunn said.

Deputies returned fire, and Pressley was pronounced dead at the Airport Circle scene, Nunn said.

The name of the deputy who shot Pressley has not been released.

Pressley's family members said the two victims in the first shooting included Pressley's ex-girlfriend and a man who was in her home at the time.

"We have noticed a disturbing rise in the number of incidents of violent acts against police officers, not only nationwide, but locally also," Boone said through the press release Friday morning.

"This is the second time in four weeks that one of our deputies has had to defend himself and others from a deadly confrontation with an armed subject. Something has to be done to reduce this level of violence," he said.

"I think at this day and time you've probably got more suspects who are carrying handguns and have the opportunity to use this sort of violence against officers," Boone said.

The sheriff's office has asked the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to investigate, as is the procedure in an officer-involved shooting.

The deputy involved has been placed on paid administrative leave and is receiving counseling, Boone said at the press conference.

Source:

http://www2.scnw.com/news/2010/may/28/florence_county_deputy_shoots_kills_suspect_in_nig-ar-351782/. See also Items 3 and 6 in Table 1.

Case #17

Published: Sep 28, 2010.

By: Tony Santaella, James Gilbert.

New Details in Officer-Involved Shooting - Sumter, SC (WLTX)

New details were presented Tuesday afternoon in an officer-involved shooting near Sumter which left one man dead. The shooting happened near the Patriot Parkway just outside of Sumter. The person who died has been identified as 24-year-old Aaron Leon Jacobs. At an afternoon news conference, law enforcement detailed the sequence of events which they say led up to the death. Around 6:55 a.m., Sumter police got a call of a carjacking on Alice Drive. They say they were pursuing the suspect on Patriot Parkway, and finally to Orlando Circle, where they say the car crashed. The suspect fled the scene. Officers then set up a perimeter and called K-9 units to search the area. Around 9:11 a.m., they say they saw Jacobs walking near Louella Lane, which intersects Patriot Parkway. They said officers believe he matched the description of the suspect from the carjacking. Officers say he presented a firearm, and in response, Sumter police officers fired several shots at Jacobs, killing him. The officers involved were not hurt. At this point, investigators have not linked the carjacking to the incident on Patriots Parkway. Police say an initial investigation shows officers were in compliance with police procedure. Source:

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=100083&catid=2&provider=email>. See also Item 17 in Table 1 above.

Case #8

Posted: 10:05 pm EDT October 15, 2010

Updated: 10:47 am EDT October 18, 2010

Man Injured In Deputy-Involved Shooting Dies - Greenville News Story - WYFF Greenville - Sheriff: Man Showed Gun, Deputies Fired. Anderson County, S.C.

A man injured in a deputy-involved shooting died at the hospital Friday night, according to the Anderson County Coroner's Office. Randal Eugene Nabors, 42, died around 9:30 p.m. Friday at AnMed Health, according to Anderson County Chief Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman. Sheriff John Skipper told News 4 that Nabors was taken to AnMed by ambulance Friday night after deputies fired shots. Skipper said at 4:45 p.m. Friday, deputies were called to 225 Jule Martin Road after a report that a man had kicked in the door, assaulted his wife and kidnapped her along with their 7-month-old child. Witnesses told deputies the man had a gun. The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has been called in to investigate the shooting. At 5:50 p.m., the wife safely returned home with the baby, Skipper said. Because of the incident, the man was wanted in connection with kidnapping, burglary and assault. The sheriff said deputies were searching for him when they got a tip that the man was at 229 Jule Martin

Road. Deputies responded to the scene at about 9 p.m. and pursued the man, officials said. Skipper said deputies fired after the man presented a gun. There was no word on how many shots were fired. According to the Coroner's Office, Nabors was shot in the groin and likely bled to death. An autopsy is scheduled for Sunday morning. Before the shooting, neighbors said they were told to stay indoors while deputies searched for the suspect. "We were inside and heard the gunshots, about five of them, and heard a holler and that was it. And the ambulances and everything arrived and then we were notified it was all right to come out," said neighbor Thomas Britt. SLED has taken over the investigation.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/25408812/detail.html#ixzz1QzhyhBdA>. See Item 8 in Table 1.

Case #18

Published October 24, 2010.

By LARRY COLLINS, REBECCA RYAN.

Police officer involved in deadly shooting in Summerville.

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating a deadly shooting in Summerville involving a police officer.

According to Capt. Jon Rogers with the Summerville Police Department, officers responded to a disturbance involving alcohol and men fighting just after 3AM Sunday morning. A suspect left and police followed him to a home on the 100 block of Four Iron Drive in Corey Woods Subdivision. Officials said the man tried to back out and run over police, and they opened fire.

According to neighbors, the driver tried to get away but crashed several homes down.

The Dorchester County Coroner said Nelson Gray Hyman III, 22, died Sunday from a gunshot wound to the chest when police shot him through his car window. His birthday is Monday. He died less than two blocks from his home.

Rogers said it's not clear if the suspect had a gun or how many shots were fire. The police officer is now in paid administrative leave while SLED conducts their investigation.

It's standard for SLED to investigate anytime an officer is involved in a shooting.

Source: <http://www2.counton2.com/news/2010/oct/24/7/police-officer-involved-deadly-shooting-summervill-ar-1005178/>. See also Item 18 in Table 1 above.

Case #21

Published: Saturday, Dec. 04, 2010

By Janelle Frost

Inquiry targets police chase in Georgetown County.

The state Highway Patrol is still investigating a police chase in Georgetown County that ended with the death of a 28-year-old man. Terrance Gagum of Hemingway died at a hospital not long after being struck as he tried to run from Georgetown County sheriff's deputies during a chase on Nov. 23. The car that struck him was driven by Deputy Christopher Naatz, said Lance Cpl. Sonny Collins with the S.C. Highway Patrol Friday. Naatz has been placed on administrative duty, Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputy Russell Goodale said Friday. He declined to provide further details while the incident is under investigation. Deputies had pursued Gagum to Frank Cribb Road shortly after 8 p.m. that night, and

Gagum was running from his car when he was struck, according to police. It remains unclear what prompted the chase. Collins said the highway patrol's Multi-disciplinary Accident Investigation Team is investigating. He said it could be a few weeks to more than a month before the investigation is complete and the report is released. Gagum, who had a history of failing to stop for police and other car-related violations, died after he was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital, authorities said. State Law Enforcement Division records show that Gagum was convicted in 2003 for failing to stop for police. At the time of his death, Gagum had charges pending in court of possession, sale or disposal of a stolen vehicle resulting from a September 2009 incident. In 2010, Gagum was charged with driving under suspension.

Source: <http://www.thesunnews.com/2010/12/04/1849344/inquiry-targets-police-chase.html>.

By Clayton Stairs. Some readers: Deputy involved with fatality did nothing wrong

Update: Published: December 12, 2010; By Clayton Stairs

Most Georgetown Times readers who commented about a police chase resulting in the death of a local man last month said they believe the deputy involved did nothing wrong.

As reported previously, Terrance Gagum died after being struck by Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputy Christopher Naatz's car during a chase on Nov. 23, 2010.

Gagum did not stop at a check point because he did not have a license, said his girlfriend Mary Evans, who was in the car during the chase.

Some people who commented did say that the deputy meant to hit the man with his patrol car and that it might have been racially motivated, but most dismissed these accusations.

Most said the man should not have been running from the police in the first place and the deputy was just trying to protect local citizens by trying to apprehend someone who was potentially dangerous.

One person stated, "Of course it was an accident, but people are trying to justify this man's death as a natural and probable consequence of his running from police. Accidents happen all the time, but the inference that this man got what he deserved is ridiculous."

In response to a comment saying there needs to be a threat for a chase, another person wrote that the Sheriff's deputy was protecting the public from someone who was driving without a license.

"So there is your threat," that person stated.

These and about 50 other comments came after two stories were published in the Georgetown Times about the incident, the second being about the NAACP having questions about the case.

Morris Johnson, the president of the Georgetown County NAACP, says his group asked the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the incident because Georgetown County authorities have not released enough details.

Deputy Russell Goodale, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, said he cannot comment on the case.

He also said he has no idea of when the investigation by the State Law Enforcement Division and the S.C. Highway Patrol might be complete, but Highway Patrol spokesman Lance Cpl. Sonny Collins said it could be a month or more before the report from investigators is released.

Source: <http://www.gtowntimes.com/search/Some-readers--Deputy-involved-with-fatality-did-nothing-wrong>. See also Item 21 in Table 1.

Case #25

Published Tuesday, January 12, 2010 11:46 AM

By Jim Tatum

Man dies in confrontation with deputies.

A 28-year-old Summerville man is dead after being shot by a Dorchester County Sheriff's Deputy during a confrontation with police over the weekend.

The Dorchester County Coroner's office said Jason Kastelhun of Grapevine Road died at the scene of multiple gunshot wounds.

Kastelhun was the stepson of an officer with the Summerville Police Department.

The incident occurred at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, when the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office was called in to help the Summerville Police Department locate a man who had made threats of suicide earlier. According to the DCSO incident report, the man's wife had called the police to report that her husband had come home to retrieve a .40 caliber pistol and left the residence. She said she subsequently spoke to him by phone and that is when he told her he was in Ridgeville and had the pistol to his chin and wanted to "end it all." She tried to call him several times after that; he finally answered and said he was driving around the Summerville area.

She told dispatch that her husband was driving a 2002 Chevy Z-71 pickup truck and that she, her mother, and children were leaving the residence because they were afraid of what Kastelhun might do if he returned to the residence.

Officers located and pursued Kastelhun near the Hunter's Creek area of Dorchester County and tried to initiate a traffic stop; he would not stop but continued toward his residence at Grapevine Road, where he got out of the vehicle with the gun, was ordered to drop it, and refused, firing shots at deputies.

Deputy Andy Martin returned fire, hitting Kastelhun.

Dorchester County Sheriff L.C. Knight conveyed his condolences to Kastelhun's family but also said he firmly supports his deputy.

"First, I want to express my sympathy and the sympathy of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office to the family of the young man who lost his life," Sheriff L.C. Knight said Monday. "Any time you have a loss of life, it is a terrible thing."

Nonetheless, Knight said he stands by his deputy's actions. Martin, who has been with DCSO since December 2006, is a highly professional, highly regarded, well-trained, professional officer, Knight said.

"I think what a lot of people don't understand is that when you're a line officer, you have to make split-second decisions sometimes," Knight added. "This was one of those decisions."

Martin is currently on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of an investigation by the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division, which investigates all officer-related shootings, he said.

Source: <http://www.journalscene.com/news/Man-dies-in-confrontation-with-deputies>.

Appendix

Table 2 provides descriptive information from coroners for known deaths of subjects that occurred in 2009, however details were not yet available for reporting in 2009.

Table 1: Descriptive Information for Deaths Occurring in January, 2009 – March 31, 2010						
Case	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	Age	D/O/D	County	Proximate Cause
28	M	Unknown	28	01-2010	Dorchester	Homicide by law enforcement officer
29	M	Black	51	3-7-10	Cherokee	Congestive heart failure
30	M	Black	54	1 st qtr 2009	Sumter	Unknown
31	M	Black	33	8-9-2009	Greenville	Cardiac arrhythmia
32	M	Black	63	9-18-09	Clarendon	Respiratory failure/lung carcinoma